



SECRETARY OF STATE

## DECLARATION

### DESIGNATION OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AS A NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCY

**Whereas**, as chief elections official of California, I have a duty under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-8, to coordinate NVRA activities in the State of California; and

**Whereas**, during my tenure, I have made implementation of the NVRA a high priority and have undertaken major steps to coordinate with state and local agencies to ensure NVRA compliance, including developing NVRA materials and forms for NVRA agencies, providing training for NVRA agency staff, coordinating communication among state and local NVRA agencies and elections officials, regularly reporting NVRA voter registration data to the public and to the United States Election Assistance Commission, designating specific federal agencies as voter registration agencies, maintaining an up-to-date list of California NVRA agencies, and other NVRA compliance activities; and

**Whereas**, in 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides new health insurance options for uninsured Americans. The ACA requires each state to establish and operate a Health Benefit Exchange, unless the state elects to have the federal government operate its Exchange. The Health Benefit Exchanges will allow millions of people who do not have health insurance to apply and be screened for eligibility for public assistance programs, such as government health insurance subsidies and Medicaid; and

**Whereas**, the California Health Benefit Exchange was established under the ACA and is required to offer – through one streamlined application process – eligibility screening and enrollment in public assistance programs such as MediCal, as well as government health insurance subsidies to be offered for the first time under the ACA; and

**Whereas**, Section 7 of the NVRA, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5 (a)(2)(A), requires that “each state shall designate as voter registration agencies... all offices in the state that provide public assistance” (emphasis added); and

**Whereas**, the California Health Benefit Exchange is a new state agency providing access to and enrollment in public assistance programs, and as such must be designated, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5(a)(2)(A), as an NVRA voter registration agency; now

**Therefore** I, Debra Bowen, Secretary of State of the State of California, do hereby declare, pursuant to Section 7 of the NVRA, 42 U.S.C. § 1973gg-5 (a)(2)(A), as follows:

For the reasons set forth above, the California Health Benefit Exchange is designated as an NVRA voter registration agency, effective immediately.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of California, this 15th day of May, 2013.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Bowen".

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State